

EARLY-ONSET SCHIZOPHRENIA IN RIGA'S CHILDREN'S CLINICAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL 2012-2021: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS

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INTRODUCTION

Early-onset schizophrenia (EOS) is a rare manifestation of the disorder, with the development of the first psychotic episode before 18 years. Very early-onset schizophrenia (VEOS) with symptoms occurring before the age of 13 is an infrequent condition with an estimated prevalence of less than 1:10000. EOS has probable rates of 1-2 per 1,000.[1]

Patients with EOS and VEOS are more likely to have a history of social neglect, drug abuse, experienced emotional violence, and obstetric complications.[2] A familial history of psychiatric diseases is a significant risk factor both for early onset and for the severity of the illness.[3]

RESULTS

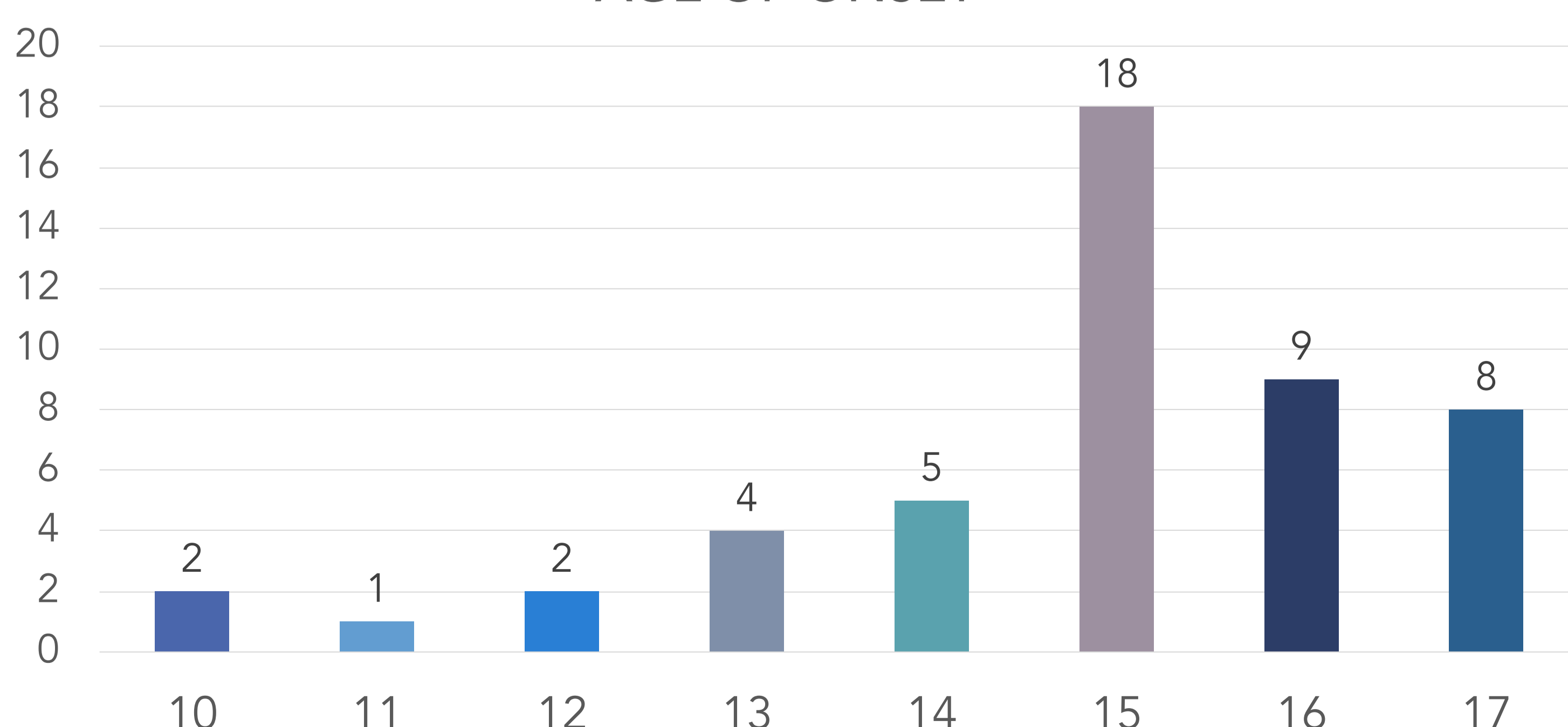
During the analyzed period, 45 patients were diagnosed with EOS (18 females, 27 males), and 4 were diagnosed with VEOS (1 female, 3 males). 83.7% of subjects presented with prodromal symptoms.

Several factors, that could potentially influence the age of onset, were detected in patients' medical records: emotional violence (in 42.8% of patients), obstetric complications (36.7%), a first-degree relative with psychotic-spectrum disorder (24.5%), or other mental disorder (34.7%), parents' divorce (42.8%), drug abuse (24.5%), traumatic childhood events (20.4%), premature birth (16.3%), birth by cesarean section (22.4%) with emergency (8.2%), and migration (10.2%). Every patient had at least two factors.

Having a first-degree relative with psychotic-spectrum disorder showed a statistically significant association with the age of onset: 14.50 (± 1.71) vs. 14.95 (± 1.76) ($p=0.021$), as well as obstetric complications 14.33 (± 1.43), 15.12 (± 1.61) ($p=0.013$).

Twenty-five patients were admitted previously with other mental health diagnoses, among which the schizotypal disorder (8), depression (6), and OCD (5).

AGE OF ONSET



AIMS OF THE STUDY

To collect epidemiological data of all cases of EOS/VEOS in Children's Clinical University Hospital from 2012 to 2021, evaluate the incidence, and identify factors associated with the age of onset of EOS.

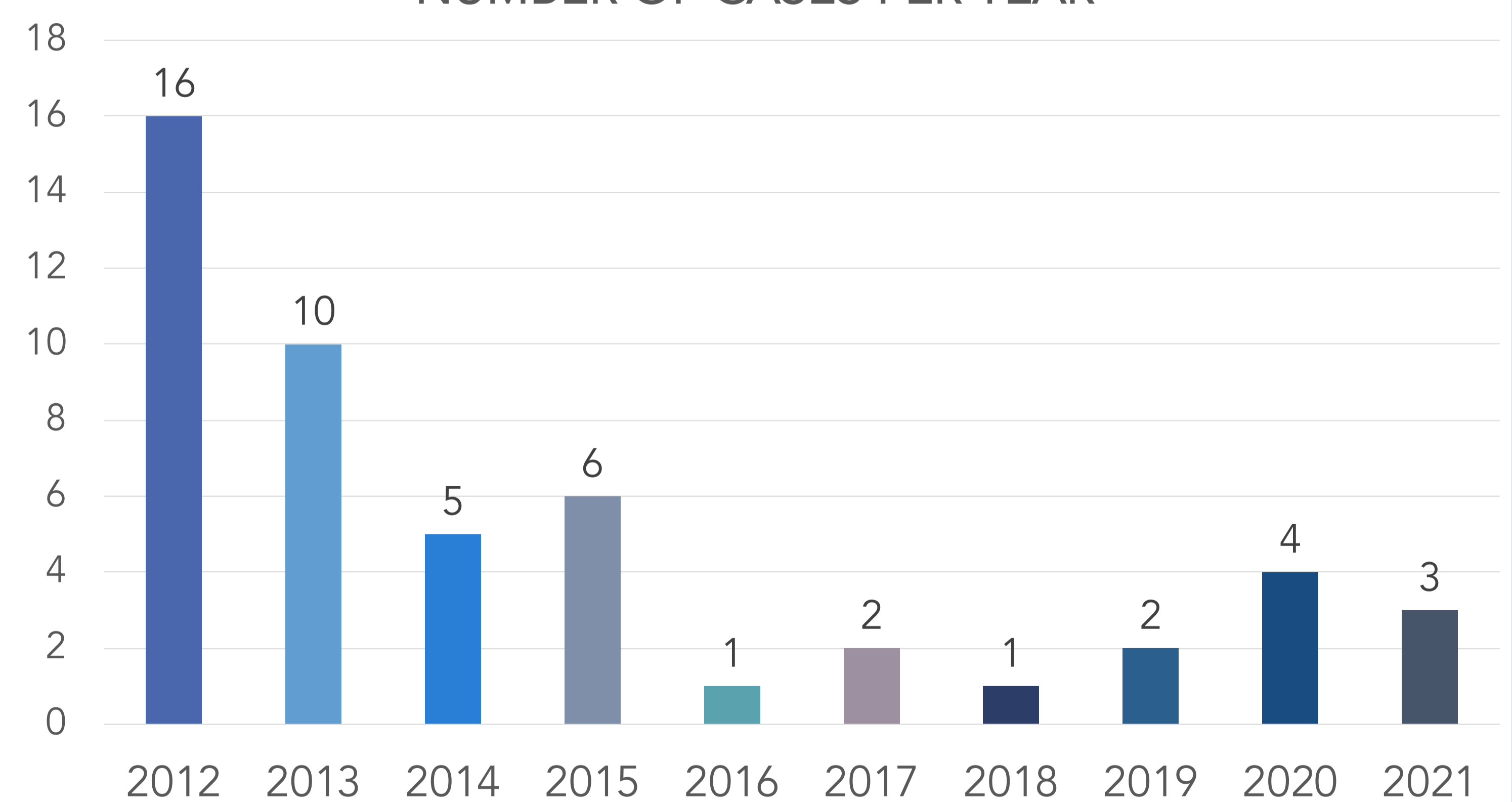
MATERIALS AND METHODS

A retrospective study that included patients admitted between January 2012 and December 2021 with a diagnosis of schizophrenia (ICD-10). The data were collected from medical records of Riga's Children's Clinical University Hospital, the largest Latvian hospital which covers a third of population; in-patient and out-patient contacts were explored.

CONCLUSIONS

- The most frequent observed factors were *emotional violence, obstetric complications, and a first-degree relative with other mental disorders.*
- *A relative with psychotic-spectrum disorder and obstetric complications* were associated with the age of onset of EOS.
- Considering the controversial data about the role of different factors in EOS manifestation, our data complement the mentioned discussion.

NUMBER OF CASES PER YEAR



REFERENCES

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- [3] J. Davis et al., "A review of vulnerability and risks for schizophrenia: Beyond the two hit hypothesis," Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews, vol. 65. Elsevier Ltd, pp. 185-194, Jun. 01, 2016. doi: 10.1016/j.neubiorev.2016.03.017.

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